

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,166,069 B2

DATED : January 23, 2007

INVENTOR(S): SCHNEIDER et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 13

Line 5, delete "ossicies" and insert therefor --ossicles--.

Column 16

Line 10, delete "filed" and insert therefor --field--.

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perpendicularly from the lid portion 728 through an opening formed in an end 714 of the transducer housing 708. As will be appreciated, the actuator 514 may be an integral part of the lid portion 728 or may be interconnected to the lid portion 728 by a means such as a weld. It will be appreciated that according to the present principles, the biocompatible enclosure 720 for the armature 106 may be formed by other means as well, such as for example, electroplating of the armature 106 with a biocompatible material, such as gold.

A biocompatible enclosure 710 is also provided between the enclosure 720 and the coil 102 and magnetic member 104. As will be further appreciated from the following description, the enclosure 710 in conjunction with the back iron 108 seals the coil 102 and the magnetic member 104 from exposure to bodily fluids. According to this characterization, the can 710 conforms to the shape of the coil 102 and magnetic member 104 such that each end includes a flanged portion. The enclosure 710 further includes a mating flange 724 at the end 714 and a mating flange 722 at the end 716 of the transducer 508. The flange 724 is connected to a tube 726, which extends interior from the end 714 of the transducer 508 where it is sealably connected to the flange 724, such as by a hermetic weld. Similarly, the flange 722 is connected to a tube 718, which extends interior from the end 716 of the transducer 508 where it is sealably connected to the flange 722, such as by a hermetic weld. The flange 724 also connects to the flanged portion of the enclosure 710, such as by a hermitic weld. Similarly, the flange 722 connects to the flanged distal end of the enclosure 710, such as by a hermitic weld. As will be appreciated, the biocompatible enclosure 710 made up of the tubes 726 and 718, the flanges 724 and 722, and the hourglass shaped can may be made of numerous biocompatible materials, with at least one example including titanium.

As noted above, the transducer 508 operates to stimulate an auditory component, such as the ossicles, through axial vibrations transmitted by the actuator 514. One example of a means for providing a movable connection between the actuator 514 the transducer 508 is spring washers 700 and 702, as exemplified by spring washer 700 illustrated in figure 8. In this regard, spring washers 700 and 702